



# *Souvenir*

OF THE FARM DELEGATION TO OTTAWA

FEBRUARY 2nd, 1942





THIS SOUVENIR BOOKLET  
*is dedicated to the more than  
400 farmers and business  
men who made the trip to*

*Ottawa in the interests of Western Agri-  
culture, and to the more than 185,000  
petition signers who contributed sufficient  
money to make the delegation possible.*

# SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT POOL

CABLE ADDRESS:  
"WHEATPOOL, REGINA"

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

Louise Wood.  
Why did more than 185,000 Saskatchewan men and women in all walks of life join in signing a petition urging a better deal for western farmers?  
We were told that most people would sign a petition when presented to them.  
But this was a different kind of a petition.

People were asked to sign, it is true. But they were also asked to support their signature with a cash contribution to cover the cost of presenting this petition at Ottawa by a delegation of more than 400 representative men and women from all parts of the Province.

This *Toussaint* Booklet vividly portrays the story of that delegation. But behind the delegation there is another story that remains to be written. — a story of the efforts of farm people to secure changes in national agricultural policies which would enable western farmers to play

2.  
their full part in the most critical period of their country's history.  
This unwritten story would show that, following repeated failures to secure these changes, at a time when Democracy itself was at stake, the people of Saskatchewan decided to use one of the most ancient forms of democratic procedure to urge their case. It would show a people of many different racial origins and beliefs, of many different trades and callings, forgetting the things on which they differed and presenting a united front in support of a fair and reasonable program for western farmers.

The depression years had driven home the lesson that the purchasing power of a bushel of wheat was the most important factor in the economic life of our Province.  
Now those of us privileged to take part in the 1942 Ottawa Farm delegation will remain long in our memories — a monument to the willingness of Saskatchewan people to work together for the common good.

Clarence Robertson



**O**N THE SECOND of February, 1942, a delegation of 400 farmers and business men met Prime Minister King and his Cabinet and presented on behalf of the people of the prairies, what may well be recorded in the history of organized agriculture as the western farmers' petition of rights.

It was an undertaking that was made possible only by the wholehearted co-operation of thousands of Saskatchewan farmers, supported by fellow farmers in Alberta and Manitoba, and by large numbers of business men who fully realized that Western Canada could not be prosperous with a bankrupt agriculture. It was an expression of dissatisfaction with an economic condition which apportioned to the prairie provinces with 20 percent of the population of the Dominion, roughly five percent of the national income. The weak point in the whole economic fabric of the country was 50-cent

wheat to the farmers of the No. 1 wheat producing area of the world.

At the outbreak of war Canada found herself with large surpluses of food. This was a condition which farmers had maintained notwithstanding disastrously low prices of the economic depression, rendered more devastating by reason of widespread crop failure occasioned by drought, soil drifting, grasshopper infestations and other causes. Of all the essential materials of war, food was the one commodity of which there was an ample reserve. But in the course of building up this surplus, farmers themselves had gone bankrupt.

In the early stages of the war, the nation struggled to adjust itself to a war economy. In the initial period, there was indecision and uncertainty. But as the months wore on Canada's industry began to revive under the impetus of war production. The eastern industrial provinces began to forge ahead.

Western farmers continued to produce food below the cost of production while other sections of Canada enjoyed unprecedented prosperity. The disparity between the agricultural and industrial sections of Canada continued to broaden.

Efforts of western farmers to obtain recognition of their plight met with scant results.

In the fall of 1940, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool took the lead in suggesting that a fixed price should be established for wheat sold for domestic consumption in Canada, such price to be established on the basis of parity, and that sales to Great Britain should be made at a negotiated price.

Early in 1941, the Wheat Pool undertook to interpret that generalized outline of policy into a specific policy for agriculture. It was largely as a result of this activity that the Saskatchewan legislature adopted a resolution requesting the federal government to adopt a policy containing six points as follows:

1. That the minimum price for the 1941 wheat crop be set at 85c per bushel.
2. That a processing tax of 50c a bushel be levied on all wheat processed for consumption in Canada, the proceeds of such tax to be added to the minimum price of 85c a bushel.
3. That the delivery of the 1941 crop be made on an

acreage quota, such quota to be determined by the storage space available during the crop year 1941.

4. That the Government of Canada make advances to farmers for the purpose of providing funds with which to build essential farm storage.
5. That the Government of Canada make provision for advances to farmers on the credit of the quota to be delivered.
6. That the Government of Canada maintain and carry the wheat surplus as an essential part of its war policy.

The policy was adopted unanimously by the Saskatchewan legislature, and Premier Patterson and Hon. J. G. Taggart, his Minister of Agriculture, went to Ottawa to present the resolution. They were accompanied by Mr. J. H. Wesson, President, and Mr. George W. Robertson, Secretary of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, who went at Premier Patterson's request.

The federal government did not see fit to accept this policy, and on March 12, 1941, announced its own agricultural policy which retained the 70 cent price for wheat, restricted deliveries to 230,000,000 bushels and continued the 15 cent per bushel processing tax on wheat used domestically. Hand in hand with this policy went a policy of acreage reduction with provision for acreage bonuses for land taken out of wheat and put into summerfallow, coarse grains and grasses.

Bonus payments could only be earned by the voluntary reduction of wheat acreage.

Farmers, through their organizations, and backed by the legislature of the province, had put up a fight for a better deal. They were given their verdict, and while it was not satisfactory to them, nevertheless they were in the position of having no alternative but to accept it.

The conditions under which farmers found themselves enjoying but a meagre slice of the national income was being perpetuated under the government's 1941 policy.

But as the summer wore on, and harvesting was started, crop conditions were proving themselves far from satisfactory. There was evidence that farmers under their restricted acreage, were not going to produce the 230,000,000 that they would be permitted to market, and in addition to that a wet fall was causing serious deterioration in grade which was again adversely affecting the cash income that the small crop would bring.

This set of conditions rendered the government's policy even more unsatisfactory to the west, and threatened to broaden the already wide disparity between conditions of agriculture and industry to an unbridgeable gulf.

Farmers were aroused. In the midst of threshing operations the Wheat Pool took the lead in organizing a series of mass meetings throughout the province. President J. H. Wesson and Vice-President A. F. Sproule toured the country for 16 mass meetings to consolidate opinion behind the need for action to avert a serious catastrophe for Canada's basic industry of agriculture.

Farmers left their threshing machines idle in the fields to flock to these meetings. Never since the days in the early 20's when the organization work in connection with the Pool was at its height, had there been such enthusiasm. Hundreds of people crowded into halls while speaker units had to be pressed into service to make it possible for people to listen in outside.

Out of these meetings came the suggestion for the circulation of a petition and for a mass delegation to Ottawa. The original 16 meetings were followed by dozens of smaller local meetings and still the enthusiasm for action continued.

Then in November, at the annual meeting of delegates of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, a resolution was introduced and given enthusiastic support, favoring the circulation of a petition to Ottawa to be supported by a mass delegation of 400 or more farmers and business men.





The First Meeting

The terms of the petition were drawn up and submitted and approved by the delegates. Immediately after the meeting closed the whole Wheat Pool organization throughout the province rolled into action.

Heavy snow storms had blocked the roads in many sections, but committee men went to work carrying the petitions to every farm home in the province. Those who could not go any other way, went on foot.

Those who signed the petition were asked to contribute small sums to enable the delegation to go to Ottawa to present it.

Early in the campaign signatures were reported by the tens of thousands. By the New Year that total had reached more than 150,000 but still the work was proceeding. When the campaign was ended there were more than 185,000 signatures on the petition, and signers had contributed an average of 24 cents each towards paying the cost of the delegation.

Early in the new year, negotiations were started with the government with a view to getting an appointment for the delegation. Railways were approached for transportation. There had been editorial attempts both in the eastern and western press to discourage the whole venture. In many quarters there was evidence that officialdom believed the farmers were bluffing—that they did not intend to go.





**The Steering Committee**

*Top Row* (left to right): Henry Lewis, Verlo; John Burrill, Langbank; John McCaig, Halvorgate; J. V. Patterson, Wilcox; P. W. Farnsworth, Edam; W. C. McNamara, Regina; A. W. Friesen, Rosthern; W. H. Broley, Swanson; John Wellbelove, Eston; H. A. Crofford, Asquith; Ed. Wright, Eastend; Norman Stewart, Phippen; A. D. Young, Cymric; J. Lidgett, Fir Mountain; R. L. Stutt, Regina; D. K. Cameron, Carlyle; W. J. Ball, Pelly.

*Front Row* (left to right): J. H. Wesson, Regina; J. P. Jenkins, Kelvington; George W. Robertson, Regina.



The Prime Minister Arrives



The Petitions Awaited Him

Finally, however, organized agriculture was able to get across the idea that there was no bluffing, that there was a genuine desire to go to Ottawa to press for more equitable adjustment of the nation's economy as between agriculture and other phases of the national life.

February 2nd was the date set for the hearing, and on January 30th two special trains left Saskatchewan, one from Regina, the other from Saskatoon, each with slightly more than 200 passengers aboard.

Sunday morning both trains pulled into Ottawa. That day the delegates met together in the convention hall of the Chateau Laurier to discuss plans of presentation of the petition and to select their speakers to present the case for the west. This was the first occasion on which this group of men and women had been brought together. There were farmers, doctors, lawyers, business men, farmers' wives and leaders of women's organizations among the throng. The personnel of the delegation was a representative cross section of the entire community life of Saskatchewan.

The meeting, too large and unwieldy to handle all matters of detail itself, appointed a steering committee. This committee immediately went to work to make final plans for the presentation of the petition and for the selection of speakers to present the case for the west.

Finishing touches were put upon the submission that the delegation desired to present, and the following morning the entire delegation again met in the convention hall and approved the terms of the submission.

The stage was then all set. At noon, Prime Minister King, reversing the usual procedure of awaiting the delegation on Parliament Hill, brought his cabinet down the hill to the Chateau Laurier and met the delegation in the convention hall.

Stacked high on a table at the front of the platform were the copies of the petition. On behalf of the delegation and the more than 185,000 petition signers, Mr. J. H. Wesson, President of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, presented the petition and followed the formal presentation with the presentation of a written submission.

It was an historic occasion. It was an example of a free people in the midst of a world war, exercising the oldest of all rights of a democracy—the right to petition those in authority for recognition of their plight and for the alleviation of inequitable conditions.

The delegation received a courteous hearing. Members of the cabinet described the presentation as “fair and reasonable” and “deeply impressive”, and Prime Minister King promised “renewed, earnest, helpful and, I believe, fruitful consideration”.



President Wesson Presents Petitions

Lunch at the Chateau



The completion of the presentation to the cabinet was followed by further discussions of the same problem by members of the delegation with the wheat committee of the cabinet.

Having completed the presentation, one phase of the delegation's work was finished. It was a job that was well done, and one which reflected credit on the personnel of the delegation. Subsequent events were to give the clue to the results of the undertaking.

The delegation had succeeded in focussing attention upon the plight of western agriculture and had demonstrated the need for adjustments in agricultural policies. Canada's farm problem over night became a major national issue. Debates in the House of Commons were loud and long. Western members, strengthened by the force of opinion built up by the delegation, won a victory over those who were clamoring for the application of the price ceiling to wheat at the 70 cent

level and succeeded in getting a 90 cent statutory price. Out of the welter of discussion and argument came the establishment of minimum prices for oats and barley and a guaranteed price of \$2.25 for flax. Amendments to the Prairie Farm Assistance Act were brought in, making some improvement in the application of the act to western farm conditions, and the wheat acreage reduction payments were retained with some modifications.

The delegation did not get everything it had asked, but the concessions gained constituted a triumph for organized agriculture. The strength of organized agriculture was to be found, not so much in the four hundred delegates who went to Ottawa, as in the solid bloc of opinion of the more than 185,000 residents of Saskatchewan who signed the petition augmented by the thousands more in Alberta and Manitoba who threw their weight in behind the move for an adjustment of agricultural policies.



THE DELEGATION TRAIN

## *Voice of the Prairies*

Members of the delegation who went to Ottawa to present their case for a better deal for agriculture were not content to deal only in facts and figures. Rather they chose to present the picture in terms of thwarted hopes, degraded farm living standards and human suffering.

From their number they picked men who were familiar with certain angles of the problem and each was detailed to give his phase of the story. Theirs were the lips that spoke the minds of 185,000 petition signers back home.

Mr. J. H. Wesson, President of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, presented the petitions and read the submission on behalf of the delegation. Others selected to bring to Ottawa the voice of prairie agriculture were Doctor The Honorable W. R. Motherwell, former federal minister of agriculture; Rev. Fr. Maurice Baudoux of Prud'homme; His Worship Mayor J. W. Corman of Moose Jaw; Reeve S. N. Horner of Fillmore Municipality; Ben E. Lewis of the Manitoba Federation of Agriculture; J. Sutherland of the Alberta U.F.A.; Rev. A. Martin of Davidson, more recently appointed field secretary of the Department of Christian Education for the United Church in Saskatchewan; and J. Foster Gibbings of Kindersley.

DR. MOTHERWELL

The Right Honorable Prime Minister and Brother Privy Councillors:

There are many reasons that prompted us to come on this large and representative pilgrimage, probably the two major ones being, first—that we, as farmers, have found to our loss and sorrow during the past 10 or 12 years and particularly the past two and a third war years that we cannot do justice to either our desired war effort, or our soils' continued productivity on the present less than average 50 cent wheat at the farm; and second—that by mutually friendly and compatible co-operation between the Department of Agriculture, its leading and experienced officials and minister, and our organized farmers, a much more excellent wartime and farm policy can, and should, be worked out by the joint efforts of all . . . .

. . . . It is not merely more money we require to attain and maintain a vigorous wheat economy, but we want a new agricultural deal all around for the successful working out of which we gladly proffer our co-operation to the end that we may be permitted and enabled to pull our full war load on an even doubletree with others . . . . We expect you, Mr. Prime Minister and colleagues, to give our relatively forgotten agriculture an even break with other groups of our population by granting us, not the smallest number of our



earnest requests, but the largest, consistent with due and proper regard for others. If this is done freely and quickly it will greatly warm and cheer the discouraged and saddened hearts awaiting expectantly back home, and thereby inspire them to renewed determination to keep the home fires burning and the home front from cracking till victory crowns our cause, however far it may be distant.

REV. MAURICE BAUDOUX

Mr. Prime Minister and Honorable Members of the Cabinet:

I do not feel that I must dwell at any length upon the interest which the church has always taken in the well-being of men. History bears testimony to this. It is true that the Church's first concern is men's spiritual well-being, but men are made of flesh and blood, not souls only, and consequently their material well-being is also a matter of interest for the Church.

Nor do I need to recall the intimate relationship which exists, particularly in our country, between rural life and the calling to pastoral duties. The vast majority of our ministry from any denomination sprang from rural families and often at the price of untold sacrifices. May I here state that we are proud of that fact.

It is because of this fact that we are so close to the people whom we serve, that we understand perhaps



Dr. Motherwell Addresses His "Brother Privy Councillors"



Fr. Baudoux Cites "The Hopeless Bachelors"

more deeply than others, the plight that has been their general lot for the past twelve years in the western provinces. What is their plight as we know it? That the rural home which recognized by all religious leaders as the most suitable environment for the practice of virtue—the rural home which is recognized by all students of political economy as the cornerstone of nations—is rapidly crumbling under the weight of economic maladjustments . . . I was raised in the district of which I now have charge—this takes us back to 1913. I have been a priest there for 12 years, and there are a few things that I know.

Boys and girls of my own age, who should and certainly would have married are now hopeless bachelors. Why? Simply because year after year they waited for the next crop. Not necessarily a bigger crop, but a crop that would bring them fair returns. Because they were denied fair prices they could not afford to use their natural divine right to establish a home of their own and bring up children.

As a result of this I have blessed only an average of one marriage each year since 1931, and will soon be confronted with the sad duty of presiding over more funerals and of performing fewer baptisms.

Besides this, others, many others of my school-mates have gone to cities in the east and on the Pacific coast where wages have justified their legitimate am-

bitions of founding a home. And now the 575 souls which I took over from my aged predecessor have decreased to less than 400, instead of increasing to 800 as they should have, according to normal natural procedure—many of those who stayed (in the district) were denied that normal cultural development which springs from schools and adult education. Most farmers visualize its worth for their children and many a child dreams of it, but under prevailing conditions dreams never come true for farmers. In the course of my visits to parishioners, how often have I felt my arms drop helplessly from my shoulders upon entering an average home, where rich human aspirations are being crushed for lack of adequate means of fulfilment.

The case of my people, Sir, as I have presented it to you, only serves as an illustration, of hundreds of similar communities throughout the Province of Saskatchewan. My three colleagues in the Ministry who form part of this Delegation, are in full accord with me.

May I close with a verse from Holy Scripture, which has been so often mis-quoted, the one I have in mind deals with poverty. Christ did not say "Blessed are the poor" but "Blessed are the poor *in spirit*".

Imposed poverty is absolutely alien to the thought of Christ, who shall always stand in the face of the world as a champion of justice and equality of treatment.

MAYOR J. W. CORMAN

Mr. Prime Minister and Honorable Members of the Cabinet:

First I can give the assurance that this petition is here with the overwhelming support of all classes and groups in Saskatchewan. A substantial percentage of those who have signed are urban dwellers, business, professional and labor men. The fact that the mayors of four of our cities are here is proof of the unanimity of feeling on this issue in our province.

I will deal with general principles only. The Sirois Report found "The people of Saskatchewan have suffered a reduction in income during the last decade which has probably been unparalleled in peace time in any other civilized country". That takes in a lot of territory both in time and space.

That same report also found, "Saskatchewan had been in many ways the mainspring of the transcontinental economy and it was recognized as a national necessity, as well as a national duty, to maintain the industry, people and organization of the area".

It is in that light, we submit, our appeal should be considered, that is as a national, not a sectional issue.

Facts which have recently come to light give added cause for concern for the future. The last census indicated Saskatchewan had lost thirty-four thousand



Mayor Corman Does Some Plain Talking



Reeve Horner Sounds Warning Note

people. Industrial employment figures show that, alone among the provinces, Saskatchewan has lost ground. The average gain for Canada is forty-six per cent, whereas we have fewer persons employed than before the war.

Of eighty million dollars spent under the National Housing Act, only five hundred thousand came to Saskatchewan, not the fault of the Act but due to our financial inability to take advantage of it.

For some of our troubles nature must be blamed but many of them are man-made. The protective tariff gets us going and coming; directly it takes from us millions yearly as well as curtailing our markets. We cannot sell where we won't buy.

We submit the farmers of Saskatchewan are not here seeking favors. All they ask is that their business, which is admittedly an essential one, be placed on a parity with other businesses, and they ask that that be done in a way that will allow them to recover their self respect. They don't want to be treated as poor relations; they want to live and raise their families on the proceeds of their labor and enterprise, based on a fair price for the things they produce. We believe their cause is a righteous one.

Mr. Prime Minister, in Saskatchewan we are becoming more and more afraid of the future, and with deference I submit that that fear may easily grow into

a threat to National unity even greater than some others that are more in the headlines. The feeling of frustration and economic fear approaching desperation that has been mounting for years, has about come to a head.

In conclusion may I say with respect, that if the sons of Saskatchewan come back from this war to find their parents eeking out an existence on fifty-cent wheat, they will be justified in feeling that we have failed them while they were fighting for us.

REEVE S. N. HORNER

Mr. Prime Minister and Members of the Cabinet:

I have been asked to present the case in support of the Rural Municipalities. I was first elected to the Council of Fillmore Rural Municipality in 1916 and have been connected with the council ever since—for the last eight years as reeve. The Rural Municipalities are charged with the responsibility of providing certain social services to their people, such as health service, schools, roads, etc., and in order to do this they must collect taxes from their ratepayers to pay for them. Over the last ten years, owing to a low price for our products, coupled with unfavorable climatic conditions, it has been impossible to collect taxes, with the result that the Rural Municipalities find themselves hopelessly in debt. I regret that I haven't got the



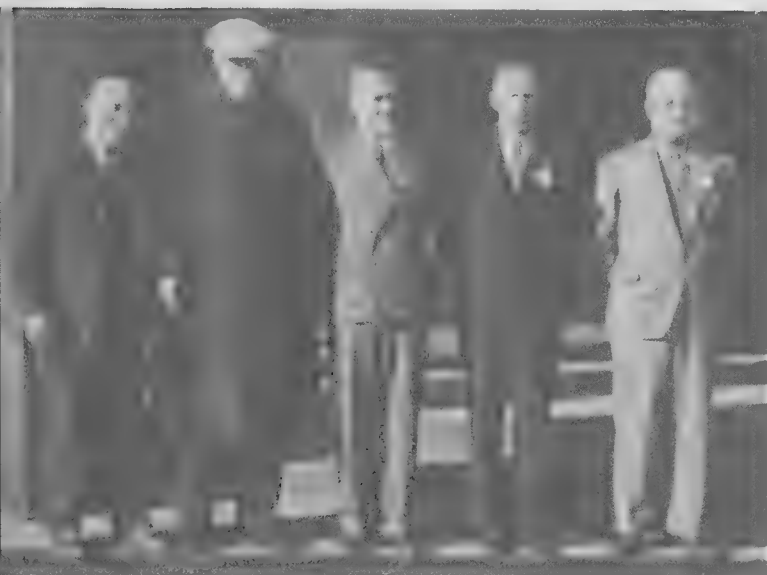
Mr. Gardiner Makes Reply

Guests of Saskatchewan M.P.'s





Three of the Alberta Delegates



Some "Business" Delegates

figures that would apply to the province as a whole but I can assure you honorable gentlemen that the picture would be an appalling one. I can, however, speak for my own Municipality of Fillmore, No. 96. We owe the Sanitarium \$6,000, spread over a period of ten years at \$600 per year with interest. This was the amount arrived at by the local government board after making reductions in the debt under the Debt Adjustment Act. Our problem is how to meet these yearly payments as well as the yearly levy which amounts to \$1,200.

We have in Fillmore a Municipal doctor, we just recently gave him a note for over \$6,000 arrears of salary. This amount would have been very much larger had it not been that the government has been paying him substantial grants in lieu of salary he was not receiving from us to enable him to carry on his work. These grants have been discontinued and again our problem is how to pay his salary as well as arrears.

These problems are in my opinion entirely incapable of solution unless we can be assured of a price for our product that will leave a reasonable margin over the cost of production.

Because of our inability to collect taxes we owe our schools large sums of money, they in turn have not been able to pay the teachers, with the result that large numbers have been leaving the profession, and in spite



of the fact that the Department of Education sent out a number of students from our Normal Schools to teach before they had completed their course, a lot of our schools are closed for want of teachers.

In the matter of roads, which is one of the main responsibilities of the Rural Municipality, our problem is even more acute and an impossible situation is developing. During the twenty years previous to the last decade we had at considerable expense built up a fairly good system of roads, but during the last ten years we have been unable to give them the necessary care and maintenance, with the result that they are fast deteriorating and a wet summer or two would leave them quite impassable. Last harvest I was called to Osage, a town in the west of our municipality, to attend a protest meeting on the condition of the roads and I found that it was impossible to haul in a load of wheat over the main road leading from the north into the town.

These problems which I am laying before you are in my opinion a direct result of our producers being compelled to accept a price for their product far below the cost of production. They are problems which make it extremely difficult for our Rural Municipalities to function and I am sure you will agree with me when I say that I believe that local self-government is the very foundation of democracy.



Chairman Marsh "Reterees" Discussion

The Two 1910'ers





THE DELEGATES MARC



UP PARLIAMENT HILL



Community Song on the North Train



Aboard the South Train

I would like to deal for a moment with another aspect of the problem and that is the change over from ownership to tenancy in our Municipality, and I am sorry to say that it is assuming alarming proportions. To illustrate I might just tell you that in Division 6, which is an area of 64 square miles, at the municipal elections last fall there were only three resident rate-payers to sign the nomination papers of the Councillor for the Division. I want to say to you honorable gentlemen that in my opinion unless something is done the whole institution of local self-government is in imminent danger of bankruptcy and complete collapse.

REV. ALLAN W. MARTIN

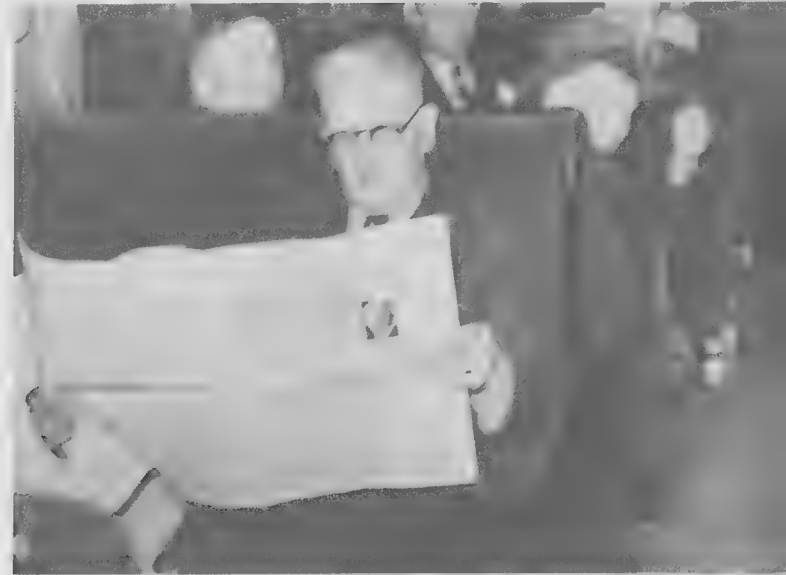
Mr. Prime Minister and Honorable Members of the Cabinet:

We have not been sent here by the official Church, but Father Baudoux and I are here because this delegation and the people of Saskatchewan are also concerned with the spiritual and moral welfare of the boys and girls, men and women, of our land. In this delegation you will find a large number of church people, devout Catholics, Elders and Sunday School Superintendents, as well as the Clergy. Why are we here? Because we realize the effect of economic frustration upon the individual and social life.

The loss of population in Saskatchewan during the past ten years has seriously crippled school, church and home. I heartily endorse all that Father Baudoux has said.

Many schools are without teachers at the present time through lack of children or lack of money. Many fine rural churches are without congregation or minister.

The Church has suffered by lack of financial support. Many churches cannot retain the services of a minister because the money is not available to the congregation. At present I am the only resident minister in an area formerly served by two ordained and three student ministers. It is an impossible task. My charge is typical of Saskatchewan churches. Why are we short of ministers? Why are hundreds of children growing up in Saskatchewan without any religious instruction of any kind? The answer is contained in this petition. Even before the war began farm boys who wished to enter the Christian ministry were not able to do so. In 1938 twenty-five boys applied to St. Andrew's College of the United Church in Saskatoon, signifying their desire to become candidates for the ministry, but they were unable to raise the necessary funds to get even one year at College. Farmers should have the right to educate their children. Young men should have the right to earn their higher education.



A Delegate Reads "The Delegate"

The President and Delegates Hare and Richardson



We do not want demoralizing forms of relief. People must be encouraged to stand on their own feet and pay their way. We do not want a peasant class in Saskatchewan. We are willing to make any sacrifice necessary to ensure the victory of Democracy abroad. Saskatchewan boys in uniform are living proof of this fact, but we are concerned with a victory for democracy at home, as well. That is why we are here. We must establish a new order to which these boys may return, where the principles of democracy for which they fought may be applied more adequately. As you have so ably said, Mr. Prime Minister: "If that new order is not on the way before the war is over, we may look for it in vain".

JOHN SUTHERLAND—UNITED FARMERS OF  
ALBERTA

Mr. Prime Minister, Honorable Members of the Cabinet:

Speaking personally, I am a dirt farmer. I have no other means of making my living other than on the farm. At the present time my wife, daughter and I are doing all the work that is done on 1,200 acres of land. We cannot have hired help because we are unable

to pay the wages the factories offer. When we have sufficient moisture we grow thousands of bushels of wheat and other grains. In addition we produce beef, pork, cream and poultry products. All the year round we work from daylight to dark. In the spring, summer and fall months, with lights on our tractors, we work far into, sometimes all night. Despite all this effort we are slowly losing ground. We are losing our efficiency. We are not making both ends meet.

This situation can be duplicated in Alberta in scores of thousands of instances. Unpaid taxes, worn-out obsolete farm machinery, a constantly decreasing standard of living. Farmers in Alberta as in other provinces of Canada have greatly increased our production of foodstuffs as a contribution to the war effort.

These are the reasons, Mr. Prime Minister, why our organization, the United Farmers of Alberta, the oldest existing economic farm organization in Canada, has endorsed the petition of the farmers of Saskatchewan and have sent Mrs. Ross, President of the United Farm Women of Alberta, Mr. Church, Chairman of the United Farmers of Alberta, Central Co-operative Association, and myself, as an indication that we are standing solidly behind the viewpoint of the petition.



MR. JAMES JACKSON—UNITED FARMERS OF  
CANADA—ALBERTA SECTION

Mr. Prime Minister and Honorable Members of the  
Cabinet:

On behalf of the United Farmers of Canada, Alberta Section, I heartily endorse this petition of our fellow farmers in Saskatchewan. I heartily endorse the statements made by my colleague from Alberta, Mr. J. Sutherland of the United Farmers of Alberta, with regard to conditions in our province.

At a recent convention in Edmonton we adopted as our official slogan: "Food for Victory". As you know Sir, food is essentially a munition of war, just as much as planes, tanks and guns. In this statement I am supported by the Right Honorable Winston Churchill and also by President Roosevelt. History proves that no Empire has ever gone down to defeat while having plenty of food, but there are many cases in history where countries have been defeated owing to lack of foodstuffs.

We are all in this war and there is only one way out, that is to fight. We must all do our share, and the farmers are not only willing but eager to do their share, and in order that they may do so and pull their full weight, the farmers must have parity prices.



The Petitions Went to Ottawa—-the Girl Was Left Behind



Delegates Dined in the Parliamentary Restaurant

They Talked It Over



#### J. FOSTER GIBBINGS

Mr. Prime Minister and Honorable Members of the Cabinet:

I am glad to have the honor and the privilege of speaking on behalf of our schools and health services in the West.

The low income of the wheat growers and farmers generally in the West is definitely reflected in lower municipal revenues which in turn results in financial difficulty for our schools and hospitals. I believe we all realize the importance to the nation and to the individual of our educational and health services.

Despite the fact that our teachers are engaged at very meagre salaries, usually about \$700 per annum, and as low as \$350 a few years ago, even this small amount is often seriously in arrears. As a result we find teachers leaving the profession for more attractive and remunerative occupations, and this has now developed a serious scarcity of teachers, and many schools are compelled, with the consent of the Department of Education to employ teachers not properly qualified. This will, of necessity, have a detrimental effect on the education of our children.

Education is the very foundation of democracy. The rising generation is the greatest asset this country

possesses, and we must if humanly possible raise the income of our western agricultural community to a point where a service so essential as education can be adequately financed, and maintained.

The maintenance of health services is of equal if not even greater importance than education. Low farm income has brought about tragic consequences, as a result of inability on the part of many of our people to secure necessary medical attention and hospitalization. Doctors have moved from rural areas of low income and left large areas without medical service and far removed from medical centres. Hospitals have been forced to close for the same reason. Others are operating with great difficulty owing to inability of the patient, or of the Rural Municipality to pay the fees. Sixteen years' service on hospital board and almost thirty years as a trustee, have brought this condition very forcibly to my attention, and it is my firm conviction, that if these elementary needs of our people are to be met adequately we must place the farmers' labor income more nearly on a par with that of workers in other essential industries . . . As far as the west is

concerned, we are convinced that this can best be accomplished by government action as requested in this petition just presented. I give my unqualified support to the petition.

MR. B. E. LEWIS—SECRETARY, MANITOBA  
FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

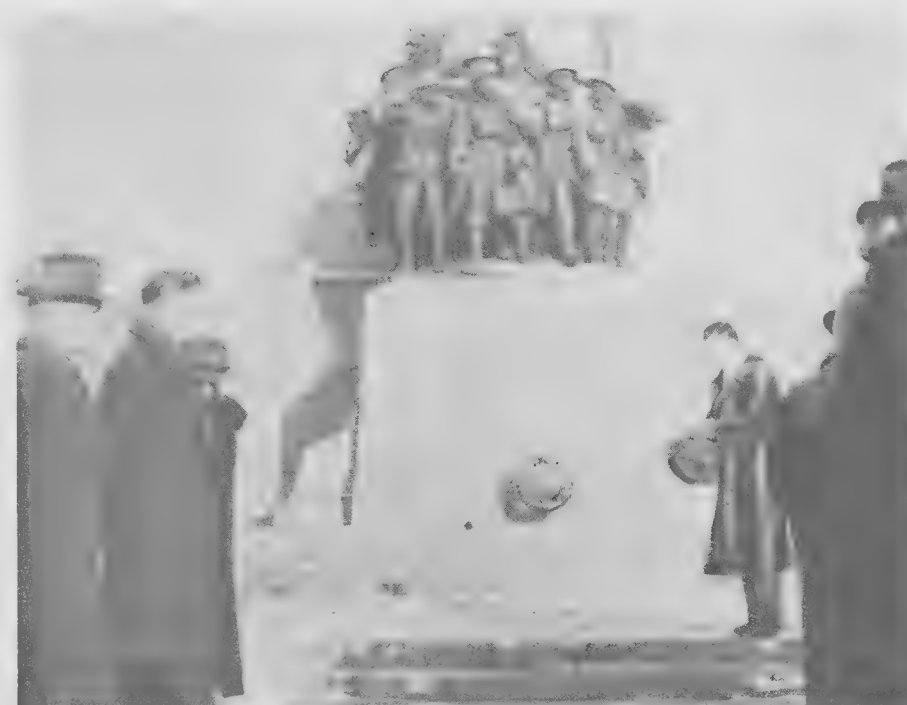
Mr. Prime Minister and Honorable Ministers of the  
Cabinet:

The Manitoba Federation of Agriculture wishes to give its support to the wheat petition of the Saskatchewan farmers. Petitions signed by 6,248 Manitoba farmers are respectfully submitted herewith, also supporting resolutions from the Rural Municipality of Birtle, and from Beaver Lodge No. 691, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

The Manitoba supporting petition is a voluntary gesture of goodwill towards our neighbor farmers of Saskatchewan and embodies hope for the establishment of a wheat policy that will enable the farmers of the prairie provinces to make the fullest possible contribution to the nation's war effort.



The  
Delegates  
Honored  
Canada's  
Heroic  
Dead



## *Delegation Highlights*

Having presented the petition to the Cabinet in the morning session at the Chateau Laurier, the delegation met again in the afternoon with the wheat committee of the Cabinet for which meeting another group of speakers had been selected to discuss phases of the farm problem in Western Canada.

Harry Marsh, who presided throughout the morning was again in the chair, and he called upon Mr. Wesson to outline the proceedings for the afternoon.

Speakers selected and the subject upon which they spoke were as follows: Percy Holland (P.F.A.A.); Les. Bright (parity prices and quotas); R. Stock, (wheat); Charles Mycroft (International Wheat Agreement); W. T. Botkin (P.F.A.A.); Harry Marsh (soil conservation); Mayor C. C. Williams (city business and labor); and A. F. Agnew (small town business).

Here are brief highlights from the addresses made by these speakers together with comment by Hon. J. G. Gardiner:

HON. J. G. GARDINER:

I wish to congratulate you as a delegation from the West on the very fair and effective way in which you presented the western viewpoint to the Govern-

ment this morning, and more particularly the viewpoint of the Province of Saskatchewan.

PERCY HOLLAND:

I think we all agree that the Prairie Farm Assistance Act is a very commendable piece of legislation. It forms the nucleus of a policy which might go a long way to improve conditions of those farmers who find themselves in difficulties brought about by the drought conditions which have prevailed in the West. We should, however, have an enlargement in the relief section which would give adequate assistance to those who have no crop, or have not sufficient to provide them with a living.

LES BRIGHT:

One of the reasons why we are here is that we do not want bonuses. We do not want to be on relief of any kind. We want to be treated as independent citizens, selling our products on the markets of the world, and particularly on the markets of our own country, on a parity with the things that we buy and use in our daily lives.

R. STOCK:

I fought in the last war, with my comrades, and some of those comrades died. We were told that we were fighting to save the world for democracy. Our sons and daughters are now willing to make the same

sacrifices that we made, and if they come back to this country and find conditions as they are now, I am afraid they will think, as we thought, that the sacrifices were in vain.

CHARLES MYCROFT:

Today we have in Saskatchewan a mortgage debt estimated at \$630,000,000, despite efforts towards reduction made by the boards of review in the province. I mention these figures because the price structure of our commodities is primarily concerned in that debt structure.

We are here not merely to ask for some more concessions for agriculture. I think, Mr. Chairman, that would be beneath the dignity of a delegation of this kind. We are here asking that we be given fair treatment with all classes in the Dominion. I think that is a democratic approach to the whole question. Democracy, as I understand it, would be equality to all and privileges to no one. If we look at it from that angle, this delegation is justified.

W. T. BOTKIN:

Mr. Mycroft spoke to you about the condition of the municipalities in Saskatchewan. Gentlemen, I do not think any of you realize how bad that condition is. It is terrible. The municipality in which I live has the fourth highest assessment in the province; it is supposed

to be one of the best municipalities. Yet our arrears of taxes that cannot be collected amount to \$252,000. Our municipality is in fair shape, but it is impossible to collect those taxes while wheat is at 50 cents a bushel. We must have a parity of prices, or something near to it, if we are to continue existing in Saskatchewan.

HARRY MARSH:

I should like to suggest to the Minister that consideration be given to conserving land that is still productive, rather than continuing along the line of trying to rehabilitate land which has been practically abandoned. I believe that land actually being worked should be kept under cultivation, and if this should necessitate some crop revision it would be a mighty good thing for the West as a whole.

MAYOR C. C. WILLIAMS:

Some two or three weeks ago this petition was before our City Council, and during the discussion I remarked that practically every man, woman and child in Regina was dependent upon agriculture, and I do not think that was an exaggeration. The petition was agreed to by a vote of eight to two. The two who voted against it were in favor of it, but voted as they did on the technical ground that it was not within our scope to pass judgment upon the matter. So you might say



the entire City Council of Regina is behind the intent of this petition.

The City of Regina has a bonded indebtedness of around \$16,000,000 which is taken care of by a sinking fund. Back in the thirties that sinking fund in its wisdom purchased some \$6,000,000 worth of rural debentures. In the past nine or ten years little or nothing has been paid on them. We are not trying to extract the last pound of flesh from the poor farmer, and we realize that with 50 cent wheat these debentures will never be retired. So the interests of Regina—and of every city, town, and hamlet, in the province—are tied up with the price of wheat.

A. F. AGNEW:

I will not take up further time now. I simply want to assure the Chairman and Ministers that the villages and towns of Saskatchewan are solidly behind this delegation.

HON. J. G. GARDINER:

These last two days I have heard many remarks which perhaps some of you have not heard. They have come to me from the press, from business men of this city and from members of all parties in the House of Commons, and I want to repeat them to you, not to flatter you, but to pay honor to this large group from

the Province of Saskatchewan. Everyone says that you have made the very finest appearance that could possibly be made down here; that you have presented your case in a reasonable way; that you have left an understanding here as to what the feeling is, and that you have made a good impression upon everyone. I want you to go away with that in your minds. No matter what criticisms may have been made in the past, we as members of the Wheat Committee and as members of the Government wish to thank you for coming and for the way in which you have expressed the point of view of the Province of Saskatchewan; and we can promise you all that members of a government can promise when meeting with you separately, namely, the most careful consideration of every representation you have made here. Thank you.

J. H. WESSON:

Let me say to the Ministers that we believe that our requests and our recommendations are fair. I do not need to remind the members of our delegation that when we started what we now call our crusade we were criticized on all sides for being too moderate. Some people contended that in dealing with the government you should ask for more than is really necessary, and maybe the government would offer a compromise on a fair basis. Mr. Chairman, that is not my policy.

This is not a bargaining crusade. We believe that we have reduced our requests to the minimum. We believe it is the duty of the Dominion of Canada to see that our section of the country is treated fairly. We want to do our share, and we believe that there should be an equality of sacrifice. But with wheat at 50 cents and with restricted deliveries we are not being treated

fairly as compared with other parts of Canada; and if these conditions continued until after the war our position would probably be so bad at that time that it could not be changed. We ask the government to consider this whole question on a basis that we think is fair and reasonable, and to put us on the road to what we call parity.



## Farm Delegation Speeds On To Ottawa

### TWO SPECIAL TRAINS LEAVE FROM SASKATOON, REGINA WITH 400 DELEGATES ABOARD

Regina, February 2, 1942.—Two trainloads of Saskatchewan farmers and business men and women are rolling towards Ottawa carrying Saskatchewan's delegation of 400 to the capital to present the Saskatchewan farmers' petition of rights to the federal government.

The petition which bears 185,000 signatures, calls upon the federal government to revise its agricultural policies in such a way as to establish fair prices for the wheat which Saskatchewan farmers produce and to provide an extension of crop insurance to give a reasonable measure of protection to the farmer who through no fault of his own, suffers a partial or complete crop failure.

It calls for acceptance of the parity principle for farm commodities and urges that no price should be fixed below the level of commodities below the parity level.

Under existing policies Prairie provinces with 50 per cent of the population produce five per cent of the food.

#### MAYORS IN

Included in the delegation are the mayors of the cities of Regina, Moose Jaw, and Moose, who have been designated to represent the interests of the cities which they reside. The delegation also includes, Dr. the Hon. Percy Collier, of Regina, Saskatchewan, president of the Saskatchewan recently appointed member of the nine person board set up by the Dominion government, known as the Wheat Pool Board of Trustees which will administer a special fund for assistance to dependents of men in the service.

The decision to have a petition circulated in Saskatchewan was reached at the 17th annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool delegates held in Regina in November. This decision came after the suggestion had come from the delegates that a delegation be held throughout the province earlier in the fall, at which about 35,000 farmers and business men would be present.

Feature of these mass meetings was the fact that they were called in the midst of threshing, and so important, they closed down their threshing machines early in the fall. The delegates, however, insisted that the threshing machines be bugged, to attend the meetings. Since the hectic days of threshing, the delegates have held throughout the province as a prelude to the organization of the Wheat Pool, had there been such a thing as a Wheat Pool.

#### THOUSANDS ATTENDED

About 2,000 people attended the mass meeting in Saskatoon, at least a thousand were in attendance at the meeting in Regina. The delegates, however, insisted that the delegates be bugged, to attend the meetings. Since the hectic days of threshing, the delegates have held throughout the province as a prelude to the organization of the Wheat Pool, had there been such a thing as a Wheat Pool.

It was at the third meeting in the city of Regina that the delegates called, that the suggestion of a petition and delegation to Ottawa was first brought forward. A resolution towards the end of October, local district meetings were

held. Early in November the delegates convened in Regina for the annual meeting of the Pool. Many of these delegates probably heard the delegates at the mass meeting at the time they heard the delegates at the mass meeting.

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Mr. Percy Collier, former federal minister of agriculture, is a member of the delegation. He is shown here with other members of the delegation.

### Why a Delegation?

In recent days and weeks various people, including some newspapers, have raised the question of why a large delegation is necessary and repeatedly the suggestion has been advanced that the delegation be composed of a small number and that the cost of the delegation so saved might be used for war purposes.

In fact when this proposal first reached public notice the press story came out of Ottawa that if such a delegation came to Ottawa it would no doubt be received and listened to attentively, at the same time, however, the fear was expressed that the delegation would be more plentiful in money than in the impression that it would leave. The impression that Western Canada than had been represented to the House of Commons by our western representatives in parliament.

There are a lot of people in Saskatchewan and the settled portion of the province covers a very large territory, probably some 400 miles east and west and 350 north and south. The original proposal was to have a delegation of 400 delegates from each Wheat Pool sub-district, which is composed of two rural municipalities.

Elsewhere in this bulletin the reason has been discussed for the circulation of a petition. Efforts have been made to outline all the points made by various delegations, the most part small, in previous western views on this vital question.

It is a considerable number of people who are in the minds of the people of the province as to whether or not they will express the views of the people of the province. There may have been some doubt as to whether the Bracken committee would be able to express the views of the people of the province. There may have been some doubt as to whether the Bracken committee would be able to express the views of the people of the province.

To be thoroughly representative of such a widespread area as the province of Saskatchewan a large delegation is required and when the delegation is large the average contribution per signature is small. It is estimated that the average contribution per signature is about one cent per person—less than the price of a packet of cigarettes.

#### SUBMITTED

Just about a year ago now a committee of Saskatchewan farmers met in Regina to discuss the question of submitting a petition to the federal government. The committee was composed of representatives of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, and the Saskatchewan Agricultural Union. The committee decided to submit a petition to the federal government. The petition was submitted to the federal government in January, 1941.

(Continued on page 5)

### The Farmers' Petition of Rights

Here is the petition which will be presented to the federal government when the delegation reaches Ottawa. It bears the signatures of 185,000 residents of Saskatchewan, all of whom are supporting the national economy of Canada.

1. That the government recognize and accept the parity principle for farm commodities and that no price should be fixed below the level of commodities below the parity level.

2. That the government provide an extension of crop insurance to give a reasonable measure of protection to the farmer who through no fault of his own, suffers a partial or complete crop failure.

3. That the government provide a special fund for assistance to dependents of men in the service.

4. That the government provide a special fund for assistance to dependents of men in the service.

#### MADE CASH DONATION

Donation made to ask every person who was asked to make a cash donation towards defraying the cost of sending the delegation to Ottawa. The donation was made to the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. The donation was made to the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

(Continued on page 5)

# The List of DELEGATES

## District No. 1

Sub. Name P.O. Address

- 1—W. J. Simpson, Gainsboro  
Hector Black, Carnduff
- 2—Neil McDonald, Fertile  
Ernest Toupin, Storthoaks
- 3—Samuel Burchill, Alameda  
Frederick John McKenzie,  
Alameda
- 4—Garfield H. McKechney, Bienfait  
Harris Workman, Willmar
- 5—Wallace W. Lynd, Estevan  
H. Gordon Gallaway, Estevan
- 6—U. S. Schmidt, Midale  
V. R. Deacon, Midale
- 7—A. J. Bell, Colgate
- 8—Elliot M. Robbins, Box No. 1,  
Weyburn  
F. C. Washington, Weyburn  
(Alderman)
- 9—Matheas J. Olsen, Arcola  
Charles Augey, Forget
- 10—Stanley E. Ramsay, Carlyle  
Donald K. Cameron, Carlyle  
F. S. Coffey, Carlyle  
W. C. Cameron, Arcola

## District No. 2

- 1—Olaf C. Waldal, Lake Alma  
R. M. Rederberg, Lake Alma
- 2—P. G. Barrett, Radville  
Gaston Coutlee, Gladmar  
Mel Harrison, Hardy
- 3—Thos. Crawford, Coronach  
Robt. Totton, Clarkbridge
- 4—John B. Boutin, St. Victor  
Emile Karczmarski, Constance  
J. D. Drouin, Willowbunch
- 5—Fagerhaug, Killdeer
- 6—Geo. Oliver, Fir Mountain  
Martin Howe, La Fleche  
Jack Lidget, Fir Mountain

Sub. Name P.O. Address

- 7—A. J. Coleman, Limerick  
Herman Lindner, Lakenheath  
Wm. H. Barnsley, Congress
- 8—A. L. S. Brown, Readlyn  
Thos. Watchman, Crane Valley  
James B. Smith, Assiniboia
- 9—Jens P. Jensen, Bengough  
Harold A. Hesterman, Glasnevin  
John E. Lloyd, Ogema
- 10—Andrew Prentice, Pangman  
Herbert J. Rainey, Pangman

## District No. 3

- 1—Raymond Buss, Mankota
- 2—J. W. Orr, Broncho  
Ted. Prefontaine, Masefield
- 3—Arthur Kluzak, Canuck  
Mrs. Myrtle M. Crowell, Canuck  
Mrs. C. R. Collier, Bracken
- 4—Gideon Bruneau, Frontier  
Herbert Borman, Divide
- 5—Peter Sveund, Robsart  
Albert Tenborg, Senate  
Walter F. Anderson, Robsart
- 6—Cy. Reburn, Ravenscrag  
S. H. Hobbs, Klintonel, Carnagh  
P.O.
- 7—Edwin Wright, Eastend  
D. J. McCuaig, Eastbrook  
Herman H. Kemper, Stone
- 8—Fred Marshall, Shaunavon  
Chris. Jensen, Shaunavon  
Henry P. Johnson, Scotsguard
- 9—R. J. Gray, Admiral  
P. J. Peterson, Admiral
- 10—A. W. Murray, Aneroid  
J. A. Williams, Kincaid  
W. N. Lackie, Meyronne

## District No. 4

- 1—Ed. Cooke, Carmichael  
A. J. Mercer, Piapot

Sub. Name P.O. Address

- 2—Harry White, Maple Creek  
Ben Beveridge, Box 478, Maple  
Creek
- 3—Lars. Hendrickson, Swift Current  
Wm. A. R. Dafoe, Swift Current  
W. R. Greenway, Wymark
- 4—John F. Frook, Gull Lake  
Eric H. Weston, Antelope  
Lewis L. Lloyd, Antelope
- 5—Carl Kjorven, Cabri  
J. C. Hughes, Pennant  
T. W. Garland, Success
- 6—W. Melrose, Maple Creek
- 7—Wesley V. Covey, Richmond  
Albert Ratcliffe, Hilda, Alberta  
Earl S. Dean, Richmond
- 8—James C. Evans, Prelate  
Chris Heeg, Estuary  
John A. Lerner, Mendham
- 9—Harry B. Whiteside, Sceptre  
R. A. Staple, Sceptre
- 10—T. L. Baldwin, Cabri  
R. Stock, Bestville  
B. C. Bailey, Roadene

## District No. 5

- 1—James L. Cropp, Mossbank  
Lars. Tollefson, Ettington  
Ross D. McLaughlin, Mossbank
- 2—Wm. G. Brown, Coppen  
A. Ripley, Glen Bain
- 3—J. L. Ailsby, Vesper  
W. T. Henderson, Vanguard
- 4—Robt. J. Cammidge, Box 515,  
Swift Current  
Wilbur Simms, Neidpath
- 5—Thos. Dixon, Bateman
- 6—Arthur M. Bobier, Rodgers
- 7—C. B. Martin, Parkbeg  
S. Shillington, Grayburn
- 8—Chas. E. Wilkens, Darmody  
Rufus Taylor, Keeler
- 9—John McCaig, Halvorgate  
Arthur C. Derringer, Secretan
- 10—Herbert Wiebe, Herbert (Mayor)  
James N. Shaw, Morse

## District No. 6

Sub. Name P.O. Address

- 1—Joseph J. Howard, Milestone  
F. M. Howsam, Colfax  
Peter E. Grabsinsky, Yellow Grass  
(Mayor)
- 2—Fred W. Ferguson, Sedley  
Ben J. Klotz, Vibank  
Robt. Roy Reid, Francis
- 3—P. G. Bradley, Regina  
Joseph V. Patterson, Wilcox  
Chas. A. Zerfing, Wilcox
- 4—R. W. Drysdale, Spring Valley  
Geo. McDougall, Avonlea
- 5—Fred Milne, Baildon  
S. T. Sifton, Pasqua  
John Wesley Corman, Moose Jaw  
(Mayor)
- 6—Carl J. Strayer, Drinkwater  
Wm. T. Botkin, Box 301, Rouleau
- 7—C. C. Williams (Mayor),  
City Hall, Regina  
R. A. Robinson, Box 132, Regina  
Alvan Kyle, Rowatt
- 8—Jas. H. Hamblin, Qu'Appelle  
A. S. Brown, Sentaluta  
T. I. Jackson, Indian Head
- 9—Hon. Dr. W. R. Motherwell  
Abernethy  
James N. Stillborn, Lorlie
- 10—Wm. Busby, Tregarva  
Roy Slessor, Lumsden (Mayor)

## District No. 7

- 1—Robert McLaren, Maryfield  
John W. Sample, Mair
- 2—Major W. A. Adams, Wapella  
Geo. Burden, Moosomin
- 3—Arthur Borrett, Wawota
- 4—Warner M. Strum, Windthorst  
Peter Keith, Inchkeith
- 5—S. M. Horner, Creelman  
Charles Mott, Corning
- 6—E. E. Smally, Windthorst
- 7—Josh. Bryson, Grenfell
- 8—Ed. Nystrom, Percival  
W. Douglas, Rocanville

**Sub. Name P.O. Address**

- 9—Ray M. Salkeld, Gerald  
A. Wallace Shaw, Bangor  
K. Scherloski, Langenburg  
10—Fred Mohr, Neudorf  
Jacob Miller, Lemberg  
Verner Freed, Dubuc

**District No. 8**

- 1—Paul E. Thies, Kamsack  
E. E. Kaeding, Churchbridge  
J. R. Welk, Churchbridge  
2—Keith Hallett, Saltcoats  
(Mayor)  
Wm. Ritchie, Bredenbury  
Frank Baines, Saltcoats  
3—Dave L. Wotherspoon, Melville  
Frank Wotherspoon, Melville  
A. M. Crawford, Goodeve  
Phil Walters, Melville  
(Representing Board of Trade)  
4—John Sharp, Springside  
R. G. Rothwell, Willowbrook  
A. C. Stewart, M.L.A., Yorkton  
5—S. S. May, Togo  
J. K. Johnson, Kamsack  
Jos. Remanda, Mikado  
6—John E. Prodanchuk, Canora  
Mrs. Geo. Kortmeyer, Tadmore  
Joe R. Fernets, Canora  
7—A. G. Dean, Rama  
J. Svendsen, Theodore  
M. H. Sethre, Sheho  
8—Chas. Mitchel, Preeceville  
J. A. McClure, Hassan  
Rev. H. Hargreaves, Preeceville  
9—W. J. M. Malcolm, Stenen  
D. M. Babuik, Norquay  
Nick Morgotch, Hyas  
10—Wilfred Lister, Pelly  
Stanley Nimetz, Arran  
Dmetro Sikorski, Arran

**District No. 9**

- 1—Thos. Gray, Ituna  
2—M. L. Bristow, Southey  
E. McWean, Lipton  
S. C. Molder, Markinch

**Sub. Name P.O. Address**

- 3—R. A. McDonnell, Box 23, Lestock  
Steve Macza, Lestock  
4—L. J. Bright, Bulyea  
W. Metcalfe, Siltan  
J. McDonald, Earl Grey  
5—Alex Scott, Cymric  
John McKay, Govan  
J. H. M. Essery, Duval  
6—Ed. Sorteberg, Govan  
J. L. Blair, Drake  
John D. McLaren, Venn  
7—Wm. Van Vliet, Quinton  
Frank Potts, Raymore  
R. Gonkman, Punichy  
8—J. A. Walker, Wynyard  
E. J. Laxdal, Dafoe  
W. C. Needham, Wynyard  
9—Harold McReynolds, Foam Lake  
Ed. Hamilton, Wishart  
E. O. Johnson, Tuffnell  
10—Victor E. Virgin, Leslie  
G. F. Gudmundson, Box 5, Mozart  
M. F. R. Aird, Elfros

**District No. 10**

- 1—C. B. Church, Dilke  
James L. Campbell, Craik  
G. L. McRae, Aylesbury  
2—David Davis, Riverhurst  
Geo. M. Emmons, Eyebrow  
3—A. J. Pearson, R.R. No. 1,  
Lucky Lake  
A. C. Coulter, Lucky Lake  
4—Melville Wilson, Wiseton  
Edward A. Gilroy, Milden  
5—Harry E. Britnell, Macrorie  
Harry T. Hall, Macrorie  
Esau Larocque, Conquest  
6—Ray Bristow, Strongfield  
7—Hans Riecken, Girvin  
Charles A. Deaver, Davidson  
R. W. Allen Martin, Davidson  
8—W. L. Busche, Imperial  
Eldon R. Abrey, Imperial, Box 48  
O. L. Etter, Imperial  
9—L. H. Tietjens, Kenaston  
R. M. McCreary, Bladworth

**Sub. Name P.O. Address**

- 10—John E. Whitmore, Harris  
Wm. H. Broley, Swanson

**District No. 11**

- 1—Ronald Smith, Kyle  
Jas. A. Smith, Sanctuary  
Chester W. Williams, White Bear  
2—F. H. Forgie, Hughton  
G. Victor Wiggins, Box 67,  
Wartime  
Wm. Herbert Wilson, Wartime  
3—J. A. W. Horton, Glidden  
John Wellbelove, Eston  
Dr. R. K. Johnstone, Eston  
(Pres. Board of Trade)  
4—E. R. Leeks, Laporte  
Iver Dahl, Mantario  
Leonard Boughen, Box 29,  
Eatonia  
5—Lorne H. Sunderland, Marengo  
C. W. Witmer, Pinkham  
6—Robert Arnold, D'Arcy  
J. Foster Gibbings, Kindersley  
W. A. Johnson, Kindersley  
7—W. H. Niccols, Box 484, Rosetown  
W. B. Farquharson, Zealandia  
Dr. H. Paine, Rosetown  
8—Ennett Rutherford, Herschel  
(Pres. Board of Trade)  
Harry Marsh, Herschel  
Milo Geo. Green, Anglia  
9—Geo. Jaap, Coleville  
Ted Burton, Plenty  
Geo. V. Poulin, Dodsland  
10—Pat J. Toal, Court  
Wm. Pettit, Box 4, Hoosier

**District No. 12**

- 1—David Todd, Keppel  
E. McKittrich, Biggar  
Archie Clark, Biggar  
2—James F. Gray, Naseby  
3—John Sample, Landis  
John A. Fox, Landis  
Percy Carter, Kelfield

**Sub. Name P.O. Address**

- 4—E. L. Knapp, Luseland  
R. N. Gooding, Tramping Lake  
Randolph Bell, Luseland  
5—Geo. W. Ivens, Scott  
F. E. Werry, Reward  
6—A. W. A. Carscadden, Macklin  
L. A. Harlow, Cactus Lake  
7—Hilton E. Holtby, Senlac  
R. F. Hayes, Unity  
8—John Churn, Lilydale  
A. Max Campbell, Neilburg  
9—Bertram Hebson, Rockhaven  
Edward A. Boden, Cutknife  
Harold A. Phillips, Rockhaven  
10—Hector L. Roberge, Battleford  
Harry Beck, Prongua

**District No. 13**

- 1—Clayton Biehn, Guernsey  
John H. Whitehead, R.R. No. 1,  
Viscount  
A. Katz, Guernsey  
2—Mrs. Anna Rowan, Young  
R. A. Mollard, Watrous  
P. S. Purdy, Meacham  
3—Frank Row, Dundurn  
Carl Johnson, Dundurn  
James Black, Kenaston  
4—S. N. MacEachern, Saskatoon  
(Mayor and Pres. Union of  
Sask. Municipalities)  
Percy Holland, R.R. No. 5,  
Saskatoon  
Charles Mycroft, Elstow  
5—Geo. W. Orchard, Delisle (Mayor)  
W. W. Brown, Langham  
Jas. B. Currie, Delisle  
6—Victor Cowley, Arelee  
Harry Andison, Perdue  
A. McMillan, Juniata  
7—Robert Cannon, Aberdeen  
John S. Driedger, Osler  
E. J. A. Opheim, Sub. 2, Saskatoon  
8—Geo. Krentz, Bruno  
Sam. Kondra, Vonda  
Rev. Maurice Baudoux, P.P.,  
Prud'homme

Sub.	Name	P.O. Address
9—	P. J. Smith, Wakaw	
	Walter Schmidt, Leofnard	
	W. H. Budzak, Alvena	
10—	N. M. Diederich, St. Benedict	
	Harry Ford, Humboldt	
	R. J. Kepkey, Humboldt (Mayor)	

**District No. 14**

1—	S. Bognell, Nut Mountain
	Joe Marriott, Carragana
	Carl R. Stevens, Kelvington
2—	Alex Donald, Wadena
	J. Renz, Wadena
	R. H. Nicholson, Kylemore
3—	Eric Neal, Leroy
	Geo. H. Herbert, Quill Lake
	J. H. Riesen, Watson
4—	Henry Neiman, Englefield
	S. J. Pappenfuss, Annaheim
	C. T. Aschenbrener, Annaheim
5—	R. Corby, Silver Park
	Richard H. Lyons, Lac Vert
	J. W. Hutchison, Sr., Spalding

Sub.	Name	P.O. Address
6—	Chas. Gavel, Rose Valley	
	Justin Slind, Dahlton	
	J. B. Lorimer, Rose Valley	
7—	C. H. Whiting, Pleasant Valley	
	J. Russel Dickie, Melfort	
	S. B. Caskey, Melfort (Mayor)	
8—	Wm. J. Hogg, Tisdale	
	Norman Jackson, Sylvania	
	Lorne Knuff, Sylvania	
9—	Lewis Robbins, Carlea	
	E. Downs, Leacross	
	James Blake, R.R. No. 1, Tisdale	
10—	R. W. Wall, Pontrilas	
	A. E. Hulley, Box 177, Codette	
	E. R. Lawrence, Nipawin	

**District No. 15**

1—	R. S. Drew, Crystal Springs
	Sevrin Svendsen, Hagen
	Tom McCloy, Meskanaw
2—	Henry Begrand, Hoey
	C. Parsons, c/o Co-op Assn., P.A.
	F. R. Glass, Prince Albert

Sub.	Name	P.O. Address
3—	Geo. Couldwell, Buttersby	
4—	John Tripple, Rosthern	
	Roy E. Orth, Laird	
5—	C. G. Smith, Marcelin	
	J. E. Coates, Leask	
	Albert Aug, Parkside	
6—	Bob Paul, Amiens	
7—	John Danielson, Valbrand	
	D. Johnstone, Mont Nebo	
8—	Geo. S. Canfield, Holbein	
	A. V. Sterling, Shellbrook	
	A. F. Agnew, Shellbrook	
9—	J. P. Baker, Weirale	
	W. A. S. Tegart, Weirale	
	Robert L. King, Paddockwood	
10—	James Boyle, Kinistino	
	V. G. King, Smeaton	
	David Vickar, Brooksby	

**District No. 16**

1—	R. Glenn, Radisson
	R. W. Moffatt, Denholm
	James Ryan, Fielding
2—	George Dove, Speers
	Anton Zuck, Hafford

Sub.	Name	P.O. Address
	R. J. Scott, Speers	
3—	J. D. Deans, 1402 Victoria St.,	
	North Battleford (Mayor)	
	John English, North Battleford	
	A. J. Willer, R.R. No. 1, North	
	Battleford	
4—	Robert Chaland, Cavalier	
	P. W. Farmsworth, Edam	
5—	E. C. Burlingham, Maidstone	
	H. J. Garret, Paynton	
	David Brown, Maidstone	
6—	J. T. Richardson, Lashburn	
	H. S. Cressman, Lashburn	
	E. H. Davies, Southminster	
7—	J. C. Massie, Sandall	
	Dan Rice, St. Walburg	
	I. Traynor, St. Walburg	
8—	J. Morton, Spruce Lake	
	W. M. McKenzie, West Hazel	
9—	Walter Williams, Glaslyn	
	A. A. Stark, Four Corners	
	B. B. Oxley, Medstead	
10—	Chas. G. Hare, Bapaume	
	S. S. Parker, Bapaume	

## TEXT *of the* SUBMISSION

Mr. Prime Minister and Honorable Members of the Cabinet:

On behalf of this Delegation may we express our appreciation of this opportunity which is now afforded us of meeting with the Prime Minister and Members of the Dominion Government.

This Delegation appears before you on behalf of the more than 185,000 people of the Province of Saskatchewan who have signed a petition which it is my duty to present to you. This petition urges that certain important changes be made in our agricultural policy as a means of meeting what we believe to be a serious crisis in the economic life of our Province. It is not necessary to emphasize to you that more than any other Province of Canada, Saskatchewan depends for its very existence on its agricultural industry. The substantial decline in our population as shown by the latest census returns, and which may be reflected by a serious reduction in our representation in the Parliament of Canada, has, we believe, been caused almost entirely by the very unsatisfactory condition of our basic industry during the past decade.

Included in this Delegation are people of all shades of political opinion and all classes of business and professional life of our Province, as well as representatives of our farming population. We should like to suggest to you, Sir, that it is doubtful if a more representative Delegation from any province has ever appeared before the Government of Canada. This will indicate to you the alarm which is felt by all classes of our people over the future prospects of our basic industry.

We would also like to suggest to you, Sir, that the wide-spread support accorded this petition is the best evidence of the unanimity of opinion that definite action is required to secure much needed changes. The ability of large numbers of Saskatchewan farmers to continue to produce wheat may well be at stake if existing conditions are much longer continued.

May we also point out that the cost of this Delegation has been financed entirely by a very large number of small contributions averaging less than 24c per person signing the petition.

While the production of wheat is an important factor in all three prairie provinces, Saskatchewan more than any of the others is dependent at this time on a wheat economy. In spite of the changes which have taken place in recent years, the purchasing power of a bushel of wheat is still the most important factor in our economic life.

In this connection we would like to remind you, Sir, that while large scale wholly mechanized wheat farming in the prairie provinces has been highly publicized, the number of farms which fall into this category represents a very, very small percentage of the 290,000 farms of the three prairie provinces. A typical farm in Saskatchewan is a family unit of one-half or three-quarter section specializing in wheat production and operated by the farmer, largely with the assistance of members of his family, and with seasonal help during seeding and harvesting.

The war industries which have changed the economic aspect of many sections in the other provinces have exercised very little influence in Saskatchewan. The most noticeable result of the war on the life of our Province, up to date, has been the enlistment of a very high percentage of our young men, a very large number of whom have come from farm homes. It has been estimated that one man in seven is today serving in some branch of His Majesty's Forces.

The present situation in Saskatchewan has not developed overnight. As a result of the deflation of 1929 to 1933, a great disparity was created between price levels for wheat and the price levels for goods and services used by the Saskatchewan wheat farmer for production and living. Wheat prices fell to very low levels but farm costs did not fall to anything like the same extent. The effect of this

decline in revenue was aggravated over large sections of the wheat area by continued drought, grasshopper and other infestations. This situation can best be illustrated by a few figures:

During the period 1926 to 1929 the yearly cash farm income for the three prairie provinces averaged \$530,000,000.00. As a result of the drastic fall in farm prices, cash income declined to \$161,000,000.00 in 1932. In recent years there has been some improvement. For the year ended July 31st, 1939, total cash income from the sale of all farm products in Western Canada amounted to \$276,680,000.00. By 1940 this had increased to \$369,750,000.00, while the peak was reached for the crop year ended July 31st, 1941, when total cash income from the sale of all farm products amounted to \$410,222,000.00. Estimates for the current year ended July 31st, 1942, show a decline in this amount to approximately \$338,000,000.00.

On account of our great dependence on wheat, Saskatchewan has probably suffered more severely than the other two prairie provinces in the past few years. In this connection it should be emphasized that there are large areas of land now under cultivation where wheat is the only safe crop to grow. In these sections, if wheat production were to be abandoned our whole present agricultural practices might almost as well be abandoned also, and the land returned to grass for ranching purposes. In this connection it should be noted that all over the world the best hard wheat is produced in semi-arid areas.

A few figures may serve to show the important part which cash income from wheat plays in our Saskatchewan economy. For the crop year ended July 31st, 1940, total cash income from the sale of all farm products amounted to slightly over \$173,000,000.00, of which \$132,000,000.00, or approximately 76% of the total was derived from wheat. In the crop year ended July 31st, 1941, total cash income from all farm products amounted to approx-



imately \$180,000,000.00, of which approximately \$129,000,000.00, or 71% of the total was derived from wheat.

It has been suggested that in order to create more stability in Saskatchewan agriculture there should be a greater degree of diversification in production. In normal times there is a fine balance in agricultural production across Canada, which if upset may well result in disaster for the farmers of other provinces. For example, in recent years a comparatively small increase in dairy production in Saskatchewan had very serious repercussions in the prices for dairy products in Ontario and Quebec.

Under the pressure of increased demand, directly as a result of the war, there has been a considerable increase in livestock production in our Province. In this connection hog production may be cited. For the three crop years prior to July 31st, 1941, proceeds from the sale of hogs doubled each year, while during the current year it is probable that revenue from this same source will show an increase of possibly 50% over last year's production. However, it should be pointed out that while there has been a substantial increase in livestock development, and while the prospects are for a continued increase in income from these sources, the total amount received can only be a small factor in replacing revenue formerly derived from wheat.

The Dominion Government has recognized our dependence on wheat income and when the wheat acreage reduction policy was decided upon last year, provision was made to provide compensation to producers to offset the estimated loss of revenue from wheat. Further assistance to farm income has also been provided under the Prairie Farm Income regulations. These payments are made on an acreage basis. The compensation from these two sources during the current year, payable to Saskatchewan farmers, will amount to approximately \$27,000,000. As the cash income from wheat in Saskatchewan declined from \$129,380,000.00 in the crop year 1940-41 to an estimated \$50,000,000.00 for the current year—an estimated reduction in income from this source of over \$79,000,000.00—these payments have been of value in reducing the need for direct relief, which might otherwise have been necessary on account of widespread crop failure.

This Delegation believes that in order to meet the present difficult agricultural position in Saskatchewan, two things are necessary:

- (a) That an increased price should be provided for the wheat which producers may market, and,
- (b) That a more adequate system of crop insurance should be available to provide compensation for those producers who suffer partial or complete crop failure.

It is the opinion of the Delegation that a different method of dealing with farm income is required, as between farmers who have produced an average crop, and those who suffer crop loss.

We fully appreciate that the Government has already provided the ground work for such a program, in existing legislation. Producers may now deliver wheat and secure a guaranteed initial advance of 70c per bushel, basis 1 Nor., in store Fort William; which means approximately 50c per bushel at the farm. The Crop Failure Section of the P.F.A.A., now in its third year of operation, provides a maximum award of \$500.00 by way of assistance to farmers with a yield of five bushels per acre or less. The Emergency Year Section of this Act provides for a sliding scale of acreage payments based on the average yield of the townships, but operates only if the average price of wheat for the first three months of the crop year falls below 80c per bushel delivered at the Head of the Lakes. As this legislation provides a partial form of price and crop insurance, it has been of particular value to our Province and we believe that this has been appreciated in all parts of Saskatchewan. At the same time we believe that it will be readily admitted that the guaranteed initial payment, and the amount of the assistance in the event of crop failure, are inadequate to meet present-day conditions.

The Delegation would also like to emphasize that there is a serious discrimination as between the Government's wartime agricultural policy and its policy for industry and labor. The labor policy originally enunciated under P.C. 7440, provided that wages were fair and reasonable when they were at levels equal to the highest point reached during the period of 1926-29. More recent regulations have

provided a ceiling on wages and provision has been made for the payment of cost-of-living bonuses to cover the increase in living costs since the outbreak of war.

We believe it is also a fair statement that the present policy of the Dominion Government, in relation to all war industries, guarantees to these industries a return which will cover production costs and a reasonable return on capital investments.

We can assure you, Sir, that if wheat prices were today at the highest levels reached during the 1926-29 period, there is little likelihood that this Delegation would now be in Ottawa.

With respect to the petition itself, the first section recommends that the Government should recognize and accept the principle of parity prices for all agricultural commodities. This recommendation may have been discussed by the Government with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and it may not now be necessary to elaborate the proposal here. We fully realize the difficulties involved in establishing an adequate base for parity prices and also that changing conditions in our agricultural production make it difficult to establish actual parity. We also appreciate that on the generally accepted basis of 1926-29 price levels, there are certain agricultural commodities now at parity.

The position of wheat, however, is a notable exception. Taking the calendar year 1926 as a parity period, by the end of 1941 the index figure representing general wholesale prices stood at 93.6; while the wheat price index for the same year was 49.5. In terms of money, the average price of wheat for the calendar year 1926 was \$1.49 per bushel, basis 1 Nor. in store at the Head of the Lakes, equal to a farm price of \$1.29 per bushel, while the average 1941 price amounted to 74c per bushel on the Lake-head basis, or about 54c on the farm. In other words, while the general wholesale price index is now getting close to the 1926 level, the wheat index is just about one-half of the 1926 price level.

The Delegation would strongly recommend that no price ceilings should be established on farm commodities below parity levels, using the word parity in the sense that a parity price for farm commodities

would be the price which these commodities would need to realize in order to purchase as large a quantity of other commodities now available as it actually did during a specified base period. In actual practice, however, in view of the present policy providing for payment of cost-of-living bonuses, we believe that ceiling prices on farm commodities should be established at levels approximately 15% above the parity prices. The Delegation believes that the principle of parity prices for farm commodities is fair to both farmers and consumers, since it asks no more of consumers than that farm prices should be sufficient to allow producers to maintain a decent standard of living.

The Delegation would also urge that equitable delivery quotas on wheat should be established and continued as long as these are required. We fully realize that there is a substantial surplus of wheat in existence in Canada at the present time—a surplus which guarantees a supply of bread grains both for our own people and for Great Britain and her Allies, as long as shipping facilities can be maintained.

We believe there has been a tendency to over-emphasize the extent of this surplus in the public mind. Less than a year ago there was much public discussion of a possible carry-over of 575,000,000 bushels at the end of the crop year on July 31st, 1941. Actually at that time the carryover amounted to 484,000,000 bushels, and if sales during the current year are maintained at anything like present levels, a further reduction at July 31st, 1942, to possibly 375,000,000 bushels or less, may be anticipated.

May we suggest, with all deference, that the Government might well be advised to consider whether our wheat stocks in Canada should be allowed to fall below this figure, in view of the probable urgent need for all foodstuffs, and particularly wheat, which will have to be met at the conclusion of the war.

The Delegation does not ask that the Government should take delivery through the Wheat Board, of all wheat that may be produced in the coming season. We are recommending only that the Government undertake to provide that growers may deliver the amount of wheat which it is estimated can be marketed during the crop year 1942-43,

unless in the opinion of the Government, additional reserves should be built up.

It is difficult at this time to submit an estimated delivery figure, but on the basis of last year's operations, when over 230,000,000 bushels of wheat were exported and some 50,000,000 bushels used for domestic consumption, we believe that a delivery quota could be established at from 280,000,000 to 300,000,000 bushels for the crop season 1942-43.

The Delegation is also urging that the initial payment on all wheat delivered to the Wheat Board should be established at not less than \$1.00 per bushel basis 1 Nor. in store at the Head of the Lakes, and that a final settlement on wheat delivered to the Wheat Board should be made by deferred payments on the basis of a parity price above referred to.

It should be emphasized that wheat at \$1.00 per bushel, although higher than the price prevailing in the past three years, is still a low price for this commodity. Over the entire period covering the calendar years 1913 to 1940 inclusive, the average price of wheat has been \$1.24 per bushel basis 1 Nor. at the Head of the Lakes. If we eliminate the years 1917-1920 inclusive (when the average price ranged from \$2.20 to \$2.51 per bushel), the average price over the twenty-five year period is still \$1.07 per bushel.

We are all the more inclined to emphasize this point when it is realized that the cheapest item on our domestic food list is bread. We believe it would provide no hardship to the domestic consumer if the parity price for wheat were established as the minimum price at which it should be sold in Canada.

It has been estimated that wheat would need to advance 52c per bushel before it was necessary to advance the price of a loaf of bread 1c. In this connection it is recalled that the price of a wrapped loaf of bread in the city of Regina in the year 1937 was 10c, when wheat sold at over \$1.40 per bushel. The following year, when wheat sold as low as 60c per bushel, the price of bread remained at the same level until strong protests were made by organized labor, when a reduction of 1c per loaf was effected. Today wrapped bread still sells at 9c per loaf in that city.

The actual sales value of our wheat crop is today determined by the Canadian Government, through the Wheat Board. The Mother Country is, of course, the large user of our wheat and the price which Great Britain will pay must be determined by negotiation between representatives of the British and Canadian Governments. It is not the intention of this Delegation to urge that Great Britain should be asked to pay increased prices for her requirements. Our Saskatchewan producers share with the whole world a tremendous admiration for the magnificent courage of the British people, and they are determined that so far as lies within their power, all the food requirements of the Mother Country shall be met at whatever price they can pay, or without price if the situation so demands. At the same time they feel that as farmers they should not be expected to carry the full load involved in providing these requirements, as this is properly a National responsibility.

The Delegation realizes that Great Britain will not be in a position to pay a price for wheat which would maintain the level we have in mind and that subsidy by the Dominion Government will be necessary. As we have already indicated, we believe that the price for wheat used for domestic consumption within Canada should be established at a fair level which would not call for subsidy by the Government. That part of the wheat crop which must find a market overseas is in a different category.

Under the present Government policy, a substantial reduction in acreage seeded to wheat below the 1940 acreage has been effected. In order to compensate growers for the loss of income, certain payments have been provided under the wheat acreage reduction regulations. Further payments have also been authorized under the Prairie Farm Income regulations to support farm income in the face of continued low prices. Both these payments are made on an acreage basis.

This Delegation believes that the position of Saskatchewan would be better served if the amount of the guaranteed initial payment was increased to \$1.00 per bushel and the P.F.I. payment eliminated. With respect to the payments now provided under the W.A.R. regulations, the Delegation realizes that this compensation has assisted in bringing

about changes in our production program by encouraging the seeding down of certain areas to grass, which will be of permanent benefit to our agriculture. We believe that the future of our agricultural industry depends largely on our ability to conserve the fertility of our soil and to rebuild where fertility has been lost. We would recommend to the Government that acreage payments directed towards encouraging soil conservation and soil building are in the National interest and should be continued. This fits in with the objective of the P.F.R.A., which has rendered valuable service to the whole Province of Saskatchewan. We believe, however, that except for this purpose, farm income should be supported by an increased per bushel price, rather than on an acreage basis.

As has already been indicated, the Delegation desires to record its appreciation of the P.F.A.A. and would urge that certain amendments should be made which would make it even more valuable than at present. In connection with the Emergency Year Section of this Act, it is recommended that provision be made that an emergency year may be declared, irrespective of the market price of wheat during the three fall months. As at present constituted, the Crop Failure section of the Act provides for certain payments to farmers when 171 townships in the Province of Saskatchewan have produced an average yield of five bushels per acre or less. We would strongly urge that the compen-

sation provided at this time is not adequate to meet present-day conditions and that provision should be made to increase the present amount of this payment.

The Delegation would look forward to the day when under happier circumstances, a more complete form of crop insurance might be established, which would provide protection to all growers and the cost of which might be shared between the Dominion and Provincial Governments and the individual producers.

The petition also recommends that all sales of wheat made by the Wheat Board during the present crop year should be credited against present season's deliveries. In view of comparatively light deliveries during the present season, it should be possible to wind up the marketing of the crop within the year of its delivery and distribute any surplus which may be available to growers entitled thereto.

In conclusion we would like to repeat that we have every reason to believe that Saskatchewan farmers are prepared to restrict their deliveries of wheat to conform to the disappearance for export and domestic consumption. Any surplus production over the grower's delivery quota should remain on the farm, either to be used for feed or held as a reserve against the possibilities of crop failure, or

to meet the call for additional supplies if required. In view of the vagaries of our Western climate, we believe this to be a sound policy.

We are satisfied that the recommendation that the Wheat Board initial payment should be increased to not less than \$1.00 per bushel is sound.

If these recommendations are accepted we are of the opinion that acreage restrictions are unnecessary, and that the individual farmer will make the most effective use of his cultivated acreage.

We would suggest that farm income from wheat for the current year will not exceed \$100,000,000.00 in the three prairie provinces. With no restriction on deliveries, the 1940 Western wheat crop produced income to the extent of \$239,000,000.00. With deliveries restricted to, say, 280,000,000 bushels for the crop year 1942-43, an initial payment of \$1.00 per bushel, basis Head of the Lakes, equal to 80c per bushel at the farm, wheat income would be \$224,000,000.00, or \$15,000,000.00 less than 1940.

We believe that the proposals here submitted are fair and reasonable and in the interests of Canada as a whole, and we would urge their acceptance.

Equality of economic sacrifice is the best and soundest basis on which to fight and win the war for Democracy.





